ARIZONA INTERAGENCY RADIO SYSTEM (AIRS)
STATE PLAN

PURPOSE

The Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) is designed to provide interoperable communications capability to first responders of police, fire, and EMS agencies, as well as other personnel of municipal, county, state, tribal, federal agencies and approved non-governmental organizations (NGO's) performing public safety activities. This system operates on designated interoperability frequencies.

These radio frequencies are to be used in the event of a multi-jurisdictional operation requiring the use of the common state radio channel(s), specifically for the use of coordinating activities during identified incidents. AIRS frequencies are not to be used by a single agency for routine public safety operations.

The Arizona Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) shall serve as the state plan governing entity.

DEFINITIONS

AIRS:	Arizona Interagency Radio System (Previously known as AERS - Arizona Emergency Radio System)
FCC:	Federal Communications Commission
IC:	Incident Command. The overall authority and control for the incident.
ICS:	Incident Command System
Incident:	An event or occurrence requiring the participation and coordination of more than one public safety first responder agency requiring the services of more than one agency.
Interoperability:	The ability of public safety officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed, and as authorized.
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO:	Non-governmental organizations. NGO's are considered field users and shall adhere to field user responsibilities as defined herein.
NIMS:	National Incident Management System

Plain Language: Common English used to convey the message without the use of radio codes.

PSAP: Public Safety Answering Point. A Public Safety Answering Point is also known as a 9-1-1 Center, Dispatch Center, or Fire Alarm Office (FAO), where public safety radio and telephone communication services are provided 24 hours, 7 days per week.

SIEC: Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

System Failure: Anything that interrupts the flow of communications or limits the communications within the situation.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Governmental agencies and NGO's, utilizing mobile and portable two-way radios, operated by personnel actively engaged in incident-related activities, are eligible to apply for operating authority.

2. Each participating agency shall be responsible for maintaining a Memorandum of Understanding with the SIEC for operation on the appropriate AIRS frequency.

3. By federal statute, federal agencies are required to obtain permission to use the AIRS frequencies through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, unless a supporting agency provides all the mobile radios for the federal agency's use.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Channel Use

The established priority-use levels for the system are described below. When a higher priority of use is required, all lower priority use must cease in ANY area where interference could occur.

The four priority levels are:

PRIORITY 1: Disaster and extreme emergency operations of large scale; for mutual aid and interagency communications.

PRIORITY 2: Emergency or urgent operations involving imminent safety of life or property.

PRIORITY 3: Special event control activities, generally of a pre-planned nature, and involving joint participation of two or more agencies.

PRIORITY 4: Drill, maintenance, and test exercises.

Communication Center Responsibilities

1. General Responsibilities
   a. Continuously monitor AIRS channel
   b. Provide communication center staff training
   c. Conduct periodic documented testing of AIRS

2. Incident Communications Center Responsibilities
   a. Monitor and respond on AIRS channel(s)
   b. Maintain dispatch documentation
   c. Record audio and telephone traffic of event
   d. Coordinate other agency unit response as requested or necessary
   e. Resume general AIRS operations and notify involved agencies at termination of incident.

3. Contingencies for System Failure
   a. The primary dispatch communication center shall attempt alternate communication methods.
   b. If the primary dispatch center is unable to establish alternative communication methods, dispatch responsibilities will be transferred to the next appropriate communication center.

Command and Control Responsibilities

1. Incident Command Responsibilities
   a. Establish ICS or NIMS protocol.
   b. Identify IC and notify incident Communication Center. Under normal conditions, the agency initiating the request for interagency assistance shall assume incident command. Should the initial agency become unable to continue as IC, command will transfer to the next appropriate agency.
   c. Identify nature of incident and request appropriate resources.
   d. Utilize state plan priority levels to identify need.
   e. Identify other support channels to be utilized for ICS or NIMS.
   f. Use plain language, avoiding agency-specific radio codes.
   g. Provide periodic update to Communications Center.
   h. Enforce radio discipline.
   i. Advise when incident is terminated.
   j. Conduct briefing of planned events. Attendees should include operational and support representatives from all involved agencies.
   k. Conduct debriefing with operational support representatives involved in the incident.

2. Contingencies for System Failure
   a. The IC shall establish a plan for alternative communication methods in the event of a system failure.

Field User Responsibilities

Field Users shall:

1. Operate within ICS or NIMS protocol.
2. Identify themselves by agency name and call sign (DPS200 or Mesa Fire Engine 201).
   a. Agencies without calls signs should identify by organization and individual's name (Red Cross, Jones).
   b. Nothing in this policy should preclude pre-planned, site specific/incident assignment calls signs.
3. Keep radio traffic to a minimum and use plain language.
4. Be available on the assigned channel.
5. Contingencies for System Failure
   a. Field Users shall follow the established IC alternative communication plan.